

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20

DRC-01 PC-10 EUR-25 /130 W
----- 112301

R 301215Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6300

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IN

SUBJ: IRAN-INDIAN RELATIONS

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL ON PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA MORNING APRIL 30, AMBASSADOR ASKED HOW MRS. GANDHI'S CURRENT VISIT TO IRAN WAS GOING. PM REPLIED THAT IT GOING WELL BUT HE WAS CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR IRAN TO HELP INDIA. HE MENTIONED SEVERAL PROJECTS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED, INCLUDING POSSIBLE IRANIAN HELP IN BUILDING AN IRON ORE PROCESSING PLANT WHICH WOULD PRODUCE IRON ORE PELLETS FOR IRANIAN CONSUMPTION. HE SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OTHER COMMODITIES IRAN WAS INTERESTED IN GETTING FROM INDIA. THE TROUBLE WAS, HE SAID, THAT INDIA WAS NOT YET ABLE TO PRODUCE IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY THOSE ITEMS THAT IRAN MIGHT WANT SO THAT IRAN WAS PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE TO HELP INCREASE INDIAN PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY IN OTHER FIELDS AS WELL.

2. HE SAID THAT INDIA HAS RAISED THE QUESTION OF FURTHER COOPERATION ON THE MADRAS REFINERY AND DOWNSTREAM ACTIVITIES. HE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE ECONOMICS OF FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE MADRAS REFINERY. HE ALSO APPEARED DUBIOUS ABOUT WHETHER ANYTHING COULD REALLY BE DEVELOPED IN THE WAY
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OF DOWNSTREAM COLLABORATION.

3. PM SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED ABOUT THE INDIAN-SOVIET TREATY AND GOTTEN THE IMPRESSION THAT MRS. GANDHI DID NOT THINK SHE WAS GETTING MUCH OUT OF IT. THUS SHE WAS TURNING TO OTHERS, INCLUDING THE U.S. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID THAT MRS. GANDHI HAD TOLD HIM US-INDIAN RELATIONS ARE DEFINITELY IMPROVING.

4. PM WENT ON TO SAY HE "FELT SORRY FOR THE POOR GIRL" BECAUSE HER PROBLEMS ARE SO ENORMOUS. HE WONDERED OUT LOUD WHETHER SHE WAS REALLY IN CONTROL OF HER GOVERNMENT OR WHETHER SHE WAS A CAPTIVE FIGUREHEAD OF HER CABINET. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID THAT SWARAN SINGH SEEMED TO HAVE A LOT OF INFLUENCE OVER HER AND KEPT PASSING HER NOTES IN OFFICIAL MEETINGS. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WHILE WE WOULD AGREE SWARAN SINGH HAD HER EAR, WE THOUGHT SHE WAS STILL VERY MUCH HER OWN PRIME MINISTER.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN03397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740102-0937
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974041/aaaaaajm.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAN-INDIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, IR, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005